Telephone services in Punjab villages

538. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of villages in Punjab that have been covered by the telephone network; and

(b) by when every village in the State is likely to have at least one telephone?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) 1823 villages in Punjab have been covered by Telephone network.

(b) It is planned to provide a telephone in every village by the year 2000 A.D.

Sanctioning telephone connections

539. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL:
SHRI VALLA SESI BHUSHANA RAO:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a scheme has been introduced to grant an immediate telephone connection on the payment of thirty thousand rupees;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what percentage of the new connections is fixed for allotment under this scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The information is given in the enclosed statement.

Statement

The details of 'Tatkal' scheme for new telephone connections are explained in the subsequent paragraphs.

1. The scheme will be applicable to telephone exchanges all over the country.

2. The prospective subscribers under the scheme will be required to pay a non-interest bearing deposit of Rs. 30,000 per connection. The telephone connection. The telephone connection under the scheme will be provided within two weeks positively after the necessary deposit has been taken.

3. The applications under the scheme will be registered on the priced application form alongwith a payment of Rs. 1,000. The remaining amount of Rs. 29,000 will be collected only if telephone connection is feasible to be provided within two weeks.

4. Separate waiting list of applicants exchangewise under the scheme will be maintained. The telephone connections will be provided strictly according to the date of receipt of application. All efforts should be made to provide the connections with minimum possible delay. Only when it is found that the telephone connection cannot be provided to an applicant due to non-availability of cable pairs, telephone to the next person in the waiting list should be provided. Applicants of all non-feasible cases should be informed immediately.

5. A reservation upto 5 per cent connections to be provided under the scheme will be made at the time of a bulk release. However, connections to individual applicants would only be provided subject to availability and feasibility.

6. General Managers can suspend operation of the scheme in an exchange temporarily through adequate publicity in leading newspapers for certain months when there is no possibility of meeting such demands due to paucity of exchange capacity. For this General Managers will review the position every month and take suitable action regarding operation or otherwise of the scheme.

7. Telephone connections under the scheme would be provided upto a maximum of 5 per cent of any bulk release subject to feasibility as and when the demands are received from the capacity